

USGS Geographic Realignment

Background

Having operated under a structure (*see map 1*) for two years and addressing declining budget resources, an executive leadership team reviewed the structure and made recommendations for consolidations which

1. better connect science issues
2. effectively distribute the workload on the landscape
3. enhance communication with partners, and
4. achieve cost savings from management changes that would go to science projects.

What's changed?

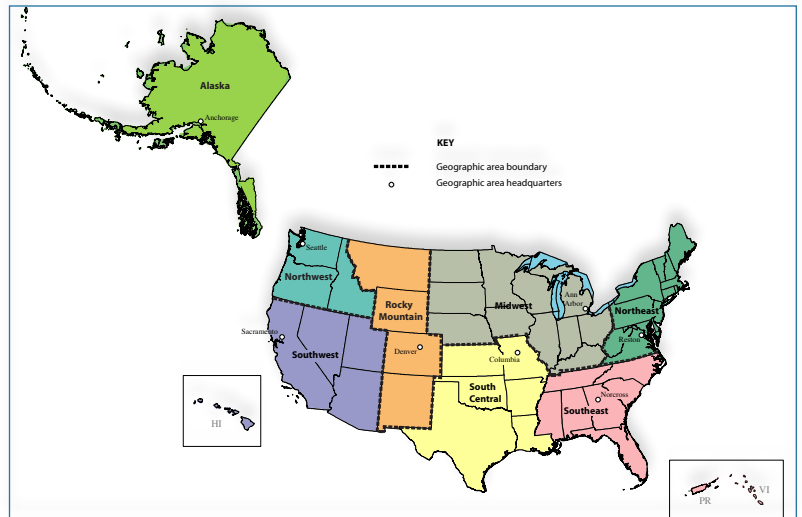
After much review, analysis, and consideration, the following changes have been made.

- eight regions reduced to seven regions (*see map 2*)
- "geographic areas" renamed as "regions"
- "regional executives" renamed as "regional directors"

These changes do not impact funding to science projects, science centers, States, and project planning. There are no adverse personnel actions, although some staff may report to different regional directors. Field stations in a region different from their home center's region will continue to report to their home center and have services from their home center's region.

Focus areas such as the U.S./Mexico border, Upper Mississippi River, Missouri River, majority of the Gulf Coast, and Four Corners, are more closely united. Regional Directors will continue to be science champions for themes such as hydraulic fracturing, Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, Great Lakes, Great Basin, and the Gulf Coast. To balance expertise, science needs, and existing partnerships, the Hazards Science Center in Golden, Colo., now reports to the Northwest Region.

This realignment also moves the USGS closer to alignment with other Departmental boundaries, therefore keeping the science management of many ecosystems under a single Regional Director.



MAP 1



MAP 2

A USGS team created an implementation strategy that included identifying staff that would be reassigned, finance and human resource coding that required updating, and performance metrics to measure success. The team communicated the change both internally and externally, and the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management, and Budget and Congress approved this request.

Implementation is effective as of October 1, 2012.

Current Regional Leadership

Alaska: Leslie Holland-Bartels; Anchorage, Alaska

Midwest: Leon Carl; Ann Arbor, Mich.

Northeast: David Russ; Reston, Va.

Northwest: Max Ethridge; Seattle, Wash.

Southwest: Randall Updike; Denver, Colo.

Southeast: Jess Weaver; Norcross, Ga.

Pacific: Rich Ferrero (*Acting*); Sacramento, Calif.

